watershed focus

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection · Division of Watershed Management

what's in focus

Fall 2005

❶ 400 Miles of TMDLs Proposed
Phosphorus is targeted

❹ Thanks to Delaware Volunteers
Oil spill efforts recognized

❻ Water Quality Planning Grants Available
Focus on on-site wastewater treatment systems

❽ CREP and Farmers
Protecting waterways one farm at a time

❿ Clean Water Hearing in October
Your participation is requested

❿ Volunteer Monitoring Summit in November
Learn how to make the most of your data

⓫ World Water Monitoring Day is Oct. 18
Join this global effort

⓬ Teaching Teachers
Learn to facilitate environmental education workshops

⓭ EstuaryLive!
Tour two New Jersey estuaries live in your classroom

⓮ New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Start Sixth Year
Watershed awareness through education and action

⓰ Bioassessment Training in October
Learn this EPA protocol

DEP Proposes New Pollution Limits to Improve Water Quality in the Wanaque Reservoir and More Than 400 River Miles Across the State

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell in July proposed new pollution limits, targeting phosphorus that causes water quality impairment of 200 river miles within the Passaic River Basin and the Wanaque Reservoir, as well as an additional 200 river miles in 20 waterways across the state.

"Improving the quality of our most significant and largest drinking-water sources is fundamental to protecting the health of New Jersey's residents," said Acting Governor Richard J. Codey. "Safeguarding our water resources also is key to supporting New Jersey's growing communities and economy."

*(**POLLUTION LIMITS** continued on page 2)*

Left to right: DEP Commissioner Bradley M. Campbell, Patrick Gallagher, Kerry Kirk-Pflugh, Brent Funk, Nickie Lagado, Julie Corson, Cara Monkowski, Carolyn Waugh, Michelle Ruggiero, Christine Hirt and Kyra Hoffmann receive the NJ Clean Communities' Clean Water Award on behalf of the AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program. Turn to page 15 for more on this story.

watershed focus

is a publication concentrating on watershed management, stormwater and nonpoint source pollution management issues in New Jersey. Send comments and subscription requests to:

New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection
Land Use Management
Division of Watershed Management
PO Box 418
Trenton, NJ 08625-0418
(609) 984-0058
kyra.hoffmann@dep.state.nj.us
www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgt

Richard J. Codey, Governor
Bradley M. Campbell, Commissioner
Lisa Jackson, Assistant Commissioner
Lawrence J. Baier, Director
Kerry Kirk Pflugh, Manager
Kyra Hoffmann, Editor
Erin Brodel, Designer

Contributors:
Danielle Donkersloot, Kathleen Griffith
and Michelle Ruggiero

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what's a watershed?

A watershed is the area of land that drains into a body of water such as a river, lake, stream or bay. It is separated from other systems by high points in the area such as hills or slopes. It includes not only the waterway itself but also the entire land area that drains to it. For example, the watershed of a lake would include not only the streams entering the lake but also the land area that drains into those streams and eventually the lake. Drainage basins generally refer to large watersheds that encompass the watersheds of many smaller rivers and streams.

Pollution Limits

(continued from page 1)

"DEP is once again building on its clean water commitment and record," said Commissioner Campbell. "For critical drinking-water sources like the Wanaque and other, we will continue to work at an accelerated pace to make up for past delays in setting tougher pollution limits."

For the Passaic River Basin, DEP has proposed total maximum daily loads or pollution limits to address phosphorus contamination entering the Wanaque Reservoir over 200 river miles. Affected rivers within the Passaic River Basin include Pompton River, Ramapo River, Pequannock River, Wanaque River, Upper & Middle Passaic River, Whippany River and Rockaway River.

The proposal specifically calls for a reduction in phosphorus from 57,574 pounds to 17,496 pounds per year going into the Wanaque Reservoir, which lies within the Passaic River Basin. The TMDL proposal requires 42 wastewater treatment plants within the Passaic River Basin to reduce phosphorus discharges by 83 percent, and establishes an 80 percent phosphorus reduction target for nonpoint source pollution. One measure to address nonpoint source pollution is a requirement for all municipalities impacting the Wanaque Reservoir to adopt a low phosphorus fertilizer ordinance.

DEP also proposed TMDLs for 20 additional waterways encompassing 200 river miles across 10 watershed areas. These 20 TMDLs call for phosphorus reductions ranging from 21 to 92 percent.

In developing these TMDLs, the DEP identifies the maximum amount of phosphorus that a waterbody can contain and still meet New Jersey's water quality standards. DEP then allocates the targeted reduction amongst existing pollution sources to restore the waterways to the state's "clean water" standard.

The federal Clean Water Act established section 303(d) requiring states to prepare and submit a report that identifies waters that do not meet water quality standards. The waterbodies on the 303(d) list have impaired water quality and the state is required to develop a TMDL for each pollutant in these waterbodies by priority.

The DEP published the 21 proposed TMDLs for phosphorus in the July 5 New Jersey Register. TMDLs were proposed for segments of these waterways: Barrett Run, Blacks Creek, Black Creek, Big Timber Creek, Cohansey River, Coles Brook, Lockatong Creek, Metedeconk River, Musquapsink Brook, Oldmans Creek, Pascack Brook, Pompton Lake, Ramapo River, Shark River, Wanaque Reservoir, Wickecheoke Creek and Wawayanda/ Pochuck River.

What is a TMDL?

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) represent the assimilative or carrying capacity of the receiving water, taking into consideration point and nonpoint sources of pollution, natural background and surface water withdrawals. A TMDL identifies all the contributors of a pollutant of concern to an impaired waterbody and sets load reductions for the pollutant, as necessary, including a margin of safety, to meet surface water quality standards. The DEP also develops an implementation plan that will achieve the load reductions identified in the TMDL. TMDLs are required, under Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act, to be developed for waterbodies that cannot meet surface water quality standards after the implementation of technology-based effluent limitations. TMDLs may also be established to help maintain or improve water quality in waters that are not impaired.

A TMDL expresses the required load reduction in terms of Waste Load Allocations and Load Allocations for point and nonpoint sources, and also includes a margin of safety that accounts for uncertainties in data, modeling and response measures. Point source reductions are reflected in permits for the point source discharges. Since nonpoint source pollution, by definition, does not come from discrete, identifiable discharges, load allocations would consist of the identification of categories of nonpoint sources that contribute to the pollutant of concern (e.g. fecal coliform, phosphorus). The load allocation also would include specific load reduction measures for the pollutant of concern. These measures would be implemented through best management practices (BMPs) including local ordinances for stormwater management and nonpoint source pollution control, headwaters protection practices, or other mechanisms for addressing the priority issues of concern.

TMDL = WLA + LA + MOS

Total Maximum Daily Load = Waste Load Allocation (from Point Sources) + Load Allocation (from Nonpoint Sources) + Margin of Safety

For more information about TMDLs, visit www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgt

Delaware River Oil Spill Volunteers Applauded

by Danielle Donkersloot, DEP Division of Watershed Management

The Water Watch Network, the DEP's Volunteer Monitoring Advisory Council, appreciates the volunteers who helped protect precious places in our Delaware River watershed during the oil spill crisis last winter on the Delaware River. These volunteers set an important example for environmental stewardship in the Delaware River estuary.

Rapid Response by Concerned Volunteers

On Friday night, November 26, 2004, the Athos I, a single-hull oil tanker, leaked an estimated 265,000 gallons of oil into the Delaware River after it struck a huge piece of iron partially submerged in river sediments near Paulsboro, New Jersey.

Within the first few hours of the spill, volunteers were contacting the Watershed Watch Network. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network was receiving the same calls and inquiries from the volunteer community. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network is an active member of the Watershed Watch Network and their coordinator, Faith Zerbe, quickly created a brief shoreline-assessment form, an oil assessment tip sheet and a data sheet. The Delaware Riverkeeper Network and the Watershed Watch Network worked diligently to provide volunteers with a stream or a stretch or shoreline to monitor and instructions via phone, documents and e-mail.

During the next several months, volunteers braved frigid temperatures to photograph and assess the shoreline at their assigned creeks, filling out and faxing report forms and calling the DEP hotline when injured wildlife was found.

The Watershed Watch Network compiled all the data sheets, notes, maps and photos and packaged it for the DEP's Natural Resources Damages Program. The DEP, U.S. Coast Guard and the Responsible Party used the data during the clean-up. For example, volunteers notified the DEP when they found a damaged boom, so it could be replaced immediately. The Natural Resource Damages Program continues to use this data in assessing long-term impacts to natural resources.

Plans to Use Protocol Statewide

The Watershed Watch Network recognizes the data package created in response to the oil spill could be adapted for use statewide, considering many oil refineries lie within New Jersey's borders, ports and bays. Instead of reacting to a crisis, as happened last November, the Watershed Watch Network can help the volunteer community be proactive by putting in place an emergency protocol that would safely deploy trained volunteers to collect useful information. Stay tuned for more on this developing protocol.

Funding Available for Management Plans for On-site Water Treatment Systems

by Alyse Greenberg, DEP Division of Watershed Management

Upwards of 320,000 New Jersey households are served by on-site wastewater treatment systems, according to estimates, and thousands of them could be malfunctioning.

On-site wastewater treatment systems, such as septic and denitrification systems, are used to collect, treat and discharge wastewater from single dwellings or buildings. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that nationwide as much as 20 percent of these systems don't work properly. Failing or poorly maintained on-site wastewater treatment systems can contaminate both surface and ground waters with a host of pollutants, including pathogens such as fecal coliform.

However, when properly managed and maintained, on-site wastewater treatment systems protect local water resources, public health and property values and have a longer service life.

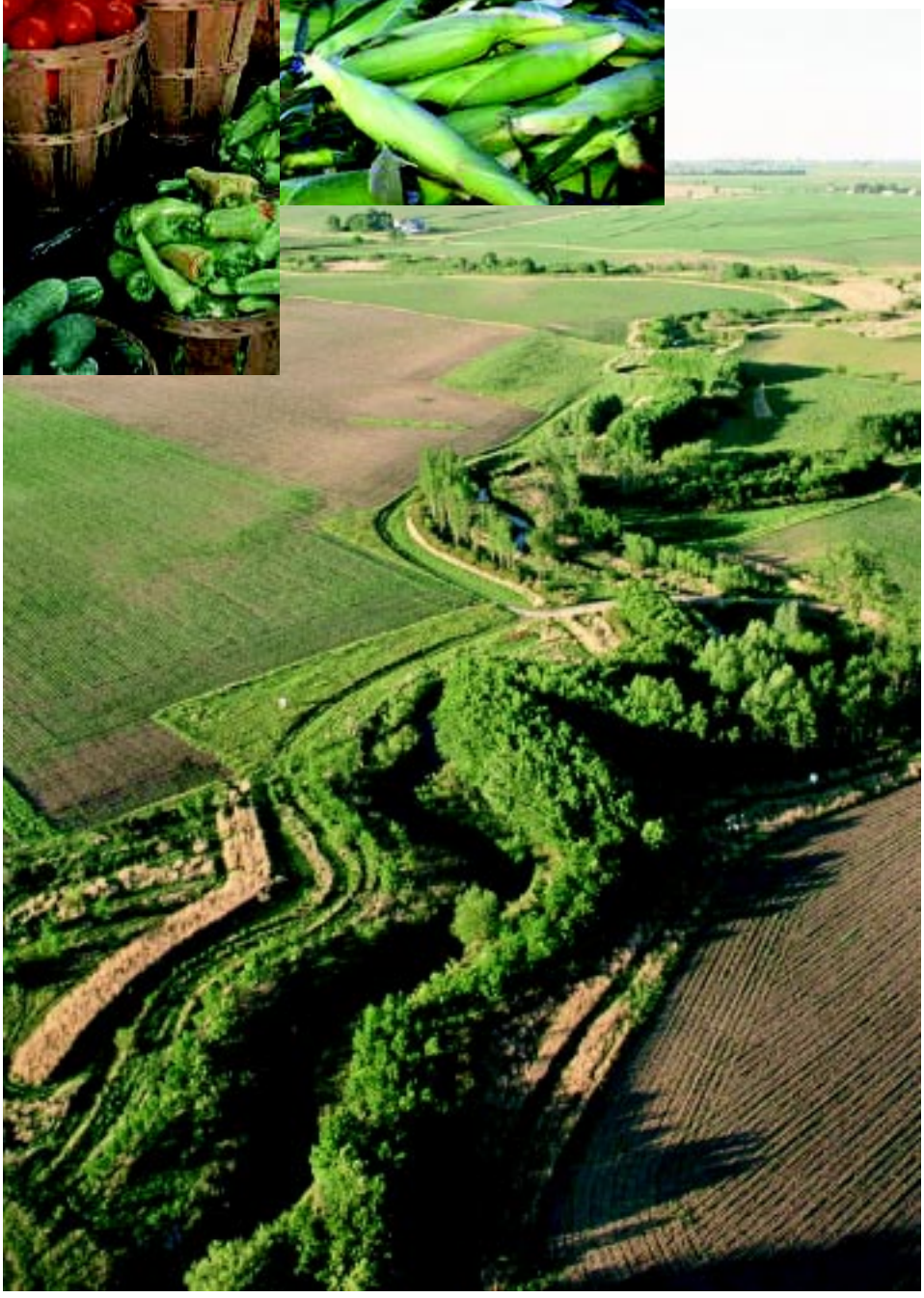
To address on-site wastewater treatment system management needs, the DEP's Division of Watershed Management is soliciting proposals to develop management plans for on-site wastewater treatment systems through its 604(b) Water Quality Planning Pass-Through Grant Program. Each year, New Jersey receives funds under Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act to carry out planning under Sections 205(j) and 303(e) of the Act.

For state fiscal year 2006, highest funding priority will be given to projects for which the proposed planning area contains waters that have established fecal coliform Total Maximum Daily Loads which identify on-site wastewater treatment systems (e.g. septic systems) as sources of fecal coliform. Other priority areas include areas (1) located within the Highlands Preservation Area, (2) containing waters that, at a minimum, have a TMDL proposed which identify on-site wastewater treatment systems as fecal coliform sources, (3) including lakesheds draining to public lakes, (4) containing Category One waters, or (5) containing properties that rely on individual private wells for potable water supply.

The SFY 2006 Request for Proposals for the 604(b) Water Quality Planning Pass-Through Grant Program **will be published in September 2005**. The Request for Proposals is available by visiting www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgt/financial_resources.htm or calling the Bureau of Watershed Planning at (609) 633-3812. For more information about the 604(b) Pass-Through Grant Program contact Alyse Greenberg, 604(b) Program Coordinator, at (609) 292-2477 or alyse.greenberg@dep.state.nj.us

New Jersey's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Nourishes the Land That Nourishes Us

by Kathleen Griffith, DEP Division of Watershed Management



New Jersey's farmland is renowned as being blessed with arguably the best soils in the world for growing certain types of fruits and vegetables, such as blueberries, peaches, tomatoes and corn, to name a few. As original stewards of the land, farmers know very well that if you don't care for your land, you won't get as much out of it.

Agriculture and the Environment

But conventional farming can also cause a host of environmental problems. Farming itself is a soil disturbance, which can cause soil erosion. Soil erosion obviously results in a loss of soil from the farm field. But its effects downstream can be devastating, reducing the infiltration of sunlight, increasing the chance of flooding, and reducing the amount of dissolved oxygen in a waterbody which essentially suffocates aquatic life.

Additionally, pesticides and fertilizers applied to crops during the growing season can run off the farm fields; carried away by stormwater, these chemicals flow into nearby creeks and streams, harming or killing animals, plants or both. Fertilizers spur unintended and uncontrolled algal blooms, which rob the waterbody of available oxygen and cause fish kills through a process called eutrophication.

Many of today's farms have replaced what were once forests or meadows full of diverse native vegetation. Monoculture crops do not provide good habitat for native wildlife. As a result a significant amount of potential wildlife habitat has been lost.

It doesn't have to be that way.

Help For Farmers

The New Jersey Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) helps farmers reduce impairments from agricultural water runoff sources to improve water quality in New Jersey streams. The DEP and the New Jersey Department of Agriculture are project sponsors for the New Jersey CREP. Under CREP, farmers receive financial incentives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency to voluntarily enroll parts of their lands in CREP contracts.

Participants remove marginal pastureland or cropland from agricultural production and convert the land to buffers consisting of native grasses, trees and other vegetation. These buffers serve to trap sediment and excess chemicals before they reach the nearby waterbodies and wreak havoc down stream. Also by using native vegetation, the buffers provide excellent habitat for native wildlife, an asset that is rapidly disappearing from the New Jersey landscape, with all the development that is occurring.

CREP Details

CREP offers a one-time signing incentive payment of $100 to $150 an acre, a one-time payment equal to about 40 percent of the eligible cost for enrollment under approved conservation practices, cost-share assistance of up to 50 percent for installation of the approved conservation practices and an annual rental payment for the life of the contract. The annual rental payment consists of three components: the base soil rental rate, an additional incentive payment based on what practices are established, and an annual maintenance payment.

Eligible CREP practices include grass waterways, the establishment of permanent vegetative cover, the planting of filter strips and the establishment of riparian buffers, which are trees planted next to streams. There are options for a 10-year or 15-year rental agreement, and the option of a Deed of Permanent Easement. Enrollment is open year round.

The program seeks to enroll farmland that is especially vulnerable to erosion or areas close to streams, which usually are the most difficult to farm. Farm owners can realize profits by taking this kind of land out of production and, through CREP enrollment, receiving the incentive and rental payments.

Agriculture: Doing Its Share

As each community deals with its particular water quality issue, all potential nonpoint sources must be addressed. Working together, New Jerseyans can embrace viable solutions to the nonpoint source pollution problem. CREP enables the agricultural community to do its part. The program offers landowners a unique opportunity to protect the environment, make sound business decisions and serve as a model for conservation and land stewardship.

The Garden State's wonderful and diverse agricultural products nourish our bodies. And the sight of rolling farmland in the nation's most densely populated state nourishes our souls. We must do all we can to preserve farming in New Jersey, but we must do it in a way that protects and preserves our most precious natural resources.

For more information about CREP, visit www.fsa.usda.gov/nj and scroll down to the CREP fact sheet at the bottom of the page, or contact your local Soil Conservation District by visiting www.nacdnet.org/resources/NJ.htm.

Clean Water Public Hearing Scheduled

The New Jersey Clean Water Council and the New Jersey Water Supply Advisory Council are sponsoring a public hearing on "Clean Water for New Jersey: Public Perspectives on Critical Issues for the Next Five Years," on Oct. 31.

The councils want to learn what residents consider the most important issues requiring state action within the next five years to protect and sustain New Jersey's water resources while safeguarding the environment and economic vitality.

Following remarks from a panel of speakers, members of the public can address the following questions:

- If you were to focus on the single most important issue affecting New Jersey's water resources in the near future, what would it be?
- What are the key reasons why this issue is so critical?
- What policies would you propose to address this critical issue?
- How will implementing your proposal affect other environmental media (e.g. air, water, land uses, fish and wildlife)?
- Is there a specific regional issue that needs more attention?

Based upon the testimony offered, the councils will develop recommendations to be presented to the DEP Commissioner.

The public hearing will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the DEP Building at 401 East State Street in Trenton.

For more information or to register to testify, send an e-mail Ray Nichols at ray.nichols@dep.state.nj.us

Third Annual New Jersey Volunteer Monitoring Summit On November 4 & 5

The 3rd Annual New Jersey Volunteer Monitoring Summit will be held at the Clarion Hotel and Towers in Edison, New Jersey. The focus of this year's Summit will be "Using Your Data to Make a Difference." Experience how other organizations use the data they collect and learn about volunteer monitoring efforts on the state and national level. This year's Keynote Speaker is Geoff Dates, Science Coordinator for the River Network. He has vast experience traveling throughout the country training citizens in river monitoring techniques, study design and quality assurance plan preparation, and strategic planning nationwide.

The first day of the summit, will focus on data management and use issues. The second day will be dedicated to demonstrations of equipment and monitoring techniques with rigor ranging from inexpensive monitoring kits to professional-grade parameter meters.

Hosted by the DEP's Division of Watershed Management, in cooperation with the Watershed Watch Network Advisory Council, the summit offers New Jersey volunteer watershed monitors an opportunity to meet and share information and techniques.

To register, contact Cook College Office of Continuing Professional Education at (732) 932-9271 or visit www.cookce.rutgers.edu

JOIN IN WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY

On Oct.18, people around the globe will observe World Water Monitoring Day, an opportunity to positively impact the quality of rivers, lakes, estuaries and other waterbodies. Volunteer monitoring groups, water quality agencies, students and the public are encouraged to participate.

Every year, from Sept. 18 and Oct. 18, people across the world monitor the quality of their local watersheds. They later share their findings by entering their monitoring results into an international database. The effort, which culminates on "World Water Monitoring Day," raises awareness of the need to protect water resources.

Participating is easy and fun. There are four simple steps.
1. Register your site. Choose a location where you can safely monitor, then register your site at www.worldwatermonitoringday.org
2. Prepare your equipment. You can use your own equipment to monitor temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen and turbidity. Or you can buy an easy-to-use test kit through the website.
3. Monitor your site. Invite others to join you or do it yourself. Visit your site any time between Sept. 18 and Oct.18 to test the water. Remember: safety first!
4. Report your data. Submit your results via the website anytime between Sept. 18 and Dec. 18. Your results will be included in the World Water Monitoring Day summary reports.

Also, be sure to check the DEP's Environmental Education website at www.nj.gov/dep/seeds/ to learn about the World Water Monitoring Day event that the DEP is planning at Batsto Village in Wharton State Forest in southern New Jersey.

America's Clean Water Foundation and the International Water Association coordinate World Water Monitoring Day.

WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY IS
OCTOBER 18

New Project Facilitator Training Slated For December 6 and 7

Do you recognize the importance of water in our lives? Do you enjoy helping other educators learn new teaching techniques? Have you ever attended a Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) workshop? Want to learn how to conduct such a workshop?

We are looking to expand the NJ Project WET facilitator network for educators willing and able to spread WET's message of conservation, understanding, and wise management of our water resources. To train these facilitators, staff from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and New Jersey Audubon Society are offering an intensive two-day workshop designed to enable its participants to lead their own six-hour long Project WET workshops! Intended for non-formal environmental educators currently working at a nature center, the workshop is also open to current and retired classroom teachers.

If you completed one of the Project WET workshops before December 2005 or currently serve as a facilitator for Projects WILD, Aquatic WILD, or Learning Tree, you are eligible to attend the New Facilitator Workshop to be held on Dec. 6 and 7 at the New Jersey Audubon Society's Plainsboro Preserve. Topics covered during this workshop include the goals and objectives of the NJ Project WET program, fundamentals of workshop planning, learning styles, teaching and presentation tips. During the two-day workshop, you will be exposed to a variety of techniques to keep the learning experiences fun for all students. You will also have the opportunity to construct your own model aquifer, which will allow you to demonstrate many important properties of ground water aquifers.

The DEP sponsors four nationally recognized, award-winning curriculum supplements - Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, Aquatic WILD and Project WET. Each uses a natural resource - the forest, wildlife, aquatic areas or water - as foundations to teach about ecology; human impacts; conservation management and planning; uses of the resource; pollution; and, other related issues. Each supplement is designed for use with students in pre-school through the secondary grades, in indoor and outdoor settings, and in all types of environments. Developed and evaluated by teachers, administrators and natural resource professionals nationwide, these supplements are interdisciplinary, incorporate a variety of learning styles and instructional strategies, strengthen creative and critical thinking skills and require minimal preparation.

To learn more or to apply for this workshop, contact Amy Messeroll, New Jersey Project WET Coordinator, at NJWET@dep.state.nj.us or call (609) 897-9400.

Free Virtual Tour of Two New Jersey Estuaries for Your Classroom

Join the staff of the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve, the Barnegat Bay National Estuary Program and the New York/New Jersey Harbor Estuary Program for the "EstuaryLive" virtual tour of two New Jersey estuaries: the Great Bay/Little Egg Harbor Estuary and the Harbor Estuary. Participants will journey through each unique ecosystem and interact with the tour guides by e-mailing questions during the field trips. Most questions will be answered live during the broadcast.

EstuaryLive will bring live broadcasts from five unique estuaries -- Oregon, New York, New Jersey, Alabama/ Mississippi and California -- into your home, office, or classroom via the Internet on Sept. 22 - 23 in celebration of the 17th Annual National Estuaries Day. Follow along with staff from the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and the National Estuary Program to explore the plant and animal life found in salt marshes, tidal creeks, bays and beaches.

Using wireless video transmission and Internet technology, EstuaryLive enables thousands of K-12 students, and anyone with a computer, to visit Reserve sites around the country. The field trips are webcast - real time, live streaming video - from the field directly to your computer. There is no cost to participate in this interactive webcast - you simply need to download the proper software prior to the broadcast - it's easy!

EstuaryLive is an excellent opportunity for educators to engage their students in an interactive field trip to the coast without worrying about travel considerations and costs. Beginning with broadcasts from the North Carolina NERR in 1998, thousands of students from classrooms around the world have participated in EstuaryLive. Students from at least 26 states plus Canada, Venezuela, Mexico, Iceland, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Japan and New Zealand have been involved in webcasts.

For more information or to register for the broadcast, visit www.estuaries.gov. Please be sure to download and test the appropriate software before the broadcast date. Please contact Eric Simms at (732) 932-6555 x505 or simms@imcs.rutgers.edu with any questions about the JCNERR/BBNEP broadcast. Or contact Laura Bartovics at Lmb55@cornell.edu or at (212) 637-3816 with any questions about the HEP broadcast.

Get To Know Your Local Watershed Ambassador

by Michelle Ruggiero, DEP Division of Watershed Management

As the sixth year of the AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassadors Program begins, a new team is ready to make a difference in their local watershed management area. The ambassadors focus on community outreach, watershed stewardship and watershed assessment. If you are looking for an interactive watershed presentation, need help with a watershed stewardship project or want to learn about volunteer monitoring, contact your local ambassador. You can find the most up-to-date contact information on our website at www.nj.gov/dep/watershedmgt

During the past five years, the ambassadors have nurtured community-based environmental activities and empowered residents of the state to make responsible and informed decisions regarding their watershed. The AmeriCorps Program enables the DEP's Division of Watershed Management to receive valuable data on the streams and rivers throughout the state. It also offers the division opportunities to educate thousands of residents about the importance of maintaining and improving New Jersey's watersheds.

- During the past five years, the AmeriCorps members made over 2,500 educational watershed demonstrations to schools, civic organizations, and the general public. These interactive presentations provide information about watershed and nonpoint source pollution issues in New Jersey.

- The members have completed more than 2,400 visual assessments and more than 1,200 biological assessments on local waterways. The Division has used these assessments for its pollution source trackdown in its Total Maximum Daily Load program, nonpoint source pollution and stream restoration project assessment and targeted stream segment assessments for other Division programs.

- The ambassadors assist DEP's Land Use Regulation Program by reporting potential freshwater wetlands violations when encountered while conducting assessments on the waterways throughout the state.

- Members engage community volunteers by training them on these two monitoring techniques, identifying macroinvertebrates that are indicators of stream health and conducting visual assessments of potential pollution sources and problems.

- In communities throughout New Jersey, the Watershed Ambassadors have generated more than 32,000 hours of volunteer community participation. The members have formed more than 100 sustaining partnerships between local, statewide, and national organizations. With a focus on stewardship, the Watershed Ambassadors engage citizenry through watershed stewardship and restoration projects, such as storm drain labeling events, stream clean-ups, water festivals, invasive species removals, restoration projects and numerous other water quality enhancement projects.

- NJ Watershed Ambassadors are placed at host agencies in each of the 20 watershed management areas of the state. The host agencies are environmental non-profit groups, local planning agencies or other government offices.

- The AmeriCorps members also participate in national service including Make A Difference Day in October, Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January, and Youth Service Day in April.

The AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors Program strives to enhance relationships between people and the environment, cultivate community based environmental actions and empower residents and businesses to make responsible decisions and take enlightened action in their watersheds. The program uses the power of volunteerism to drive watershed stewardship across the State. The Watershed Ambassadors Program provides the resources, through both the members and volunteers, necessary to achieve local watershed awareness.

AmeriCorps is a national service program that engages more than 50,000 Americans each year in intensive service to meet critical needs in education, public safety, health, homeland security and the environment. Created in 1993, AmeriCorps is part of the Corporation for National and Community Service, which engages more than two million Americans of all ages and backgrounds in service each year.

For more information on the Watershed Ambassadors Program, contact Michelle Ruggiero, Program Manager at (609) 292-2113.

Five Years of Watershed Ambassadors

New Jersey Clean Communities Council Presents Clean Water Award to Watershed Ambassador Program

The New Jersey Clean Communities Council honored the Division of Watershed Management's AmeriCorps NJ Watershed Ambassadors Program with the "Clean Water Award" at an annual awards banquet last May. The Watershed Ambassadors have been working with the Clean Communities Program for the past three years. The AmeriCorps program has been a valuable resource in assisting Clean Communities with stream and litter clean-ups as well as storm-drain marking events throughout New Jersey

Learn EPA's Rapid Bioassessment Methodology in October

The Watershed Watch Network, in conjunction with EPA's Region 2, is offering training in EPA's Rapid Bioassessment Methodology. The two-day training will feature muddy bottom methodology on Oct. 11 at Haddon Lake Park in Camden County and rocky bottom methodology on Oct. 12 at Flat Rock Brook Nature Preserve in Bergen County. For more information, call Danielle Donkersloot at (609) 292-2113.

Find out how New Jersey's Farmers are helping to protect New Jersey's waterways - read about it on page 8.

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Division of Watershed Management
PO Box 418
Trenton, NJ 08625-0418
Richard J. Codey, Governor
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